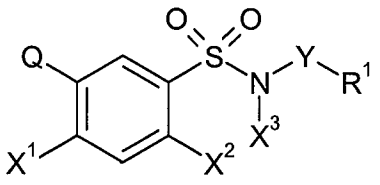
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A compound which is a benzenesulfonamide derivative of the formula I



I,

in which the variables are as defined below:

X^1 is hydrogen or halogen;

X^2 is chlorine;

X^3 is hydrogen~~, cyano,~~ or C_1-C_6-alkyl, ~~C_1-C_6-alkoxy-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl, C_3-C_6-alkenyl, C_3-C_6-alkynyl or phenyl-C_1-C_4-alkyl, where the phenyl radical for its part may be partially or fully halogenated and/or substituted by one to three radicals selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_6-alkyl and C_1-C_6-alkoxy;~~

Y is a group -C(A)B;

A is oxygen;

B is oxygen or sulfur;

R^1 is hydrogen, ~~halogen, hydroxyl,~~ C_1-C_8-alkyl, C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl, ~~C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_2-C_8-alkenyl, C_5-C_7-cycloalkenyl, C_3-C_8-alkynyl,~~ C_1-C_8-alkoxy, ~~C_3-C_7-cycloalkyloxy, C_2-C_8-alkenyloxy, C_3-C_8-alkynyloxy, aryl, aryloxy, aryl-C_1-C_4-alkyl;~~

~~where the 13 last mentioned radicals for their part may be partially or fully halogenated and/or may carry one to three substituents selected from the group consisting of cyano, NO_2, hydroxyl, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_6-haloalkoxy, C_3-C_7-cycloalkyloxy, C_2-C_6-alkenyloxy, C_3-C_6-alkynyloxy, C_1-C_6-alkylthio, C_1-C_6-haloalkylthio, amino, C_1-C_6-alkylamino, di(C_1-C_6-alkyl)amino, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxysulfonyl, formyl, C_1-C_6-alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkylcarbonyl, C_2-C_6-alkenylcarbonyl, C_3-C_6-alkynylcarbonyl, carboxy, C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkoxycarbonyl, C_2-C_6-alkenyloxycarbonyl, C_3-C_6-alkynyloxycarbonyl, mercaptocarbonyl, C_1-C_6-alkylthiocarbonyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkylthiocarbonyl, C_2-C_6-alkenylthiocarbonyl, C_3-C_6-alkynylthiocarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, C_1-C_6-alkylaminocarbonyl, di(C_1-C_6-alkylamino)carbonyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkylaminocarbonyl, di(C_1-C_6-haloalkylamino)carbonyl, C_2-C_6-alkenylaminocarbonyl, di(C_2-C_6-alkenylamino)carbonyl, C_3-C_6-alkynylaminocarbonyl, di(C_3-C_6-alkynylamino)carbonyl, phenyl, phenoxy, phenyl-C_1-C_4-alkyl and phenyl-C_1-C_4-alkoxy;~~

~~four- to six-membered heterocyclyl which may be partially or fully halogenated and/or substituted by one to three radicals selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_6-alkyl and C_1-C_6-alkoxy; or~~

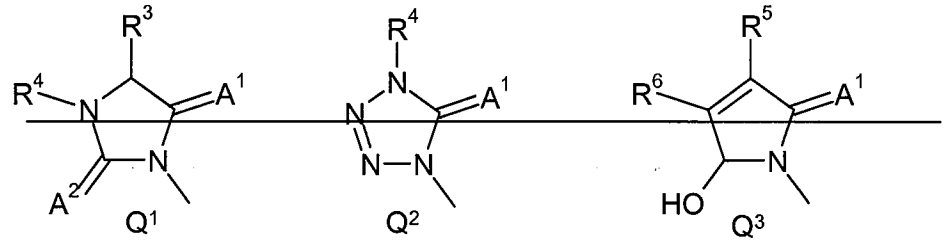
~~four- to six-membered heterocyclyl-C_1-C_4-alkyl which may be partially or fully halogenated and/or substituted by one to three radicals selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_6-alkyl and C_1-C_6-alkoxy; or~~

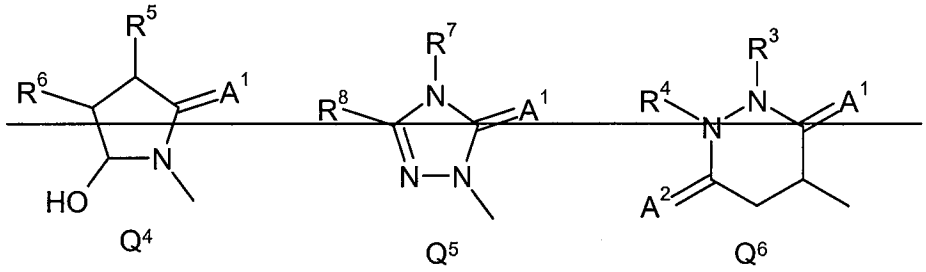
~~five- or six-membered heteroaryl having one to four nitrogen atoms or having one to three nitrogen atoms and one oxygen or one sulfur atom or having one oxygen or sulfur atom, which radical may be partially or fully halogenated and/or substituted by one to three radicals selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_6-haloalkoxy, amino, C_1-C_6-alkylamino and di(C_1-C_6-alkyl)amino; or~~

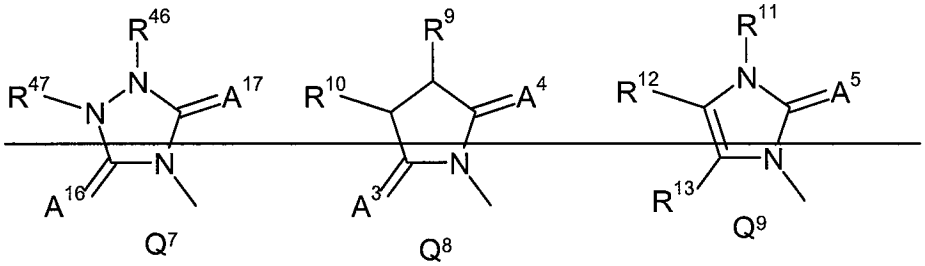
~~five- or six-membered heteroaryl-C_1-C_4-alkyl having one to four nitrogen atoms or having one to three nitrogen atoms and one oxygen or one sulfur atom or having one oxygen or sulfur atom, which radical may be partially or fully halogenated and/or substituted by one to three radicals selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_6-haloalkoxy, amino, C_1-C_6-alkylamino and di(C_1-C_6-alkyl)amino;~~

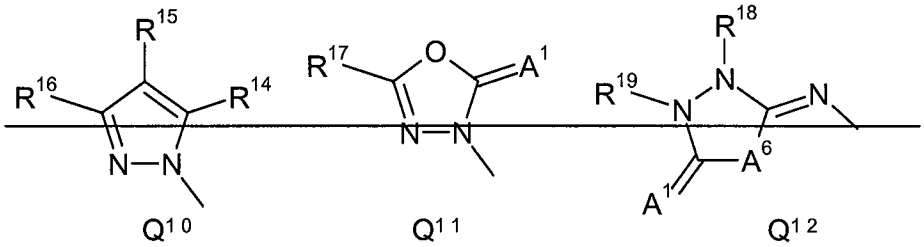
phenyl-C_1-C_4 alkyl, wherein C_1-C_8 alkyl may be substituted by C_1-C_8 alkoxycarbonyl.

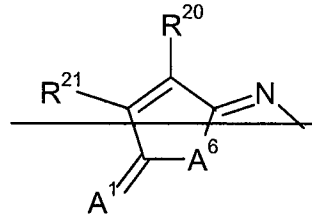
Q is ~~a radical selected from the group consisting of Q^1 to Q^{39}~~



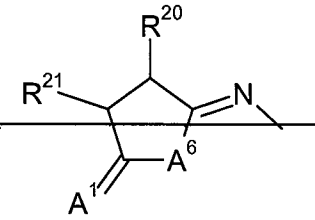




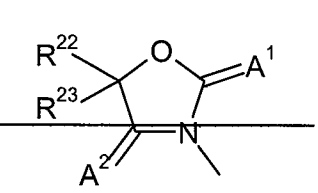




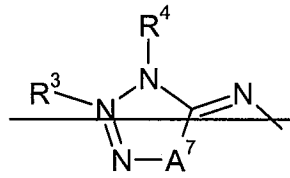
Q13



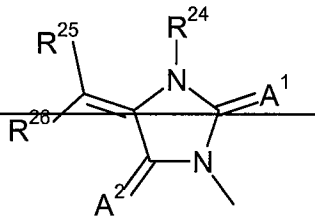
Q14



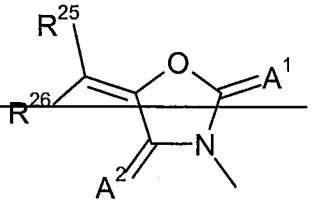
Q15



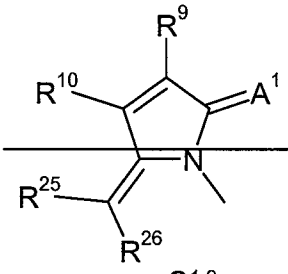
Q16



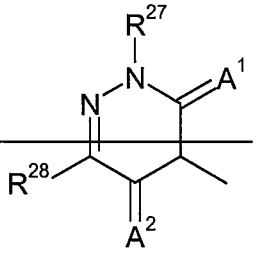
Q17



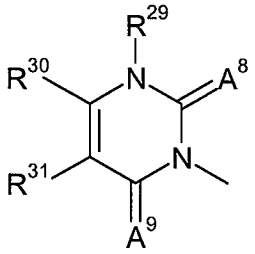
Q18



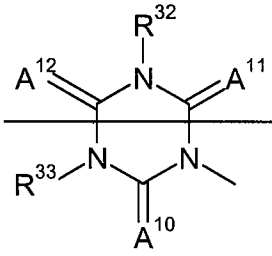
Q19



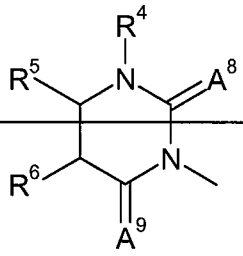
Q20



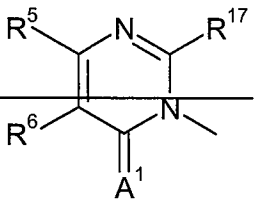
Q21



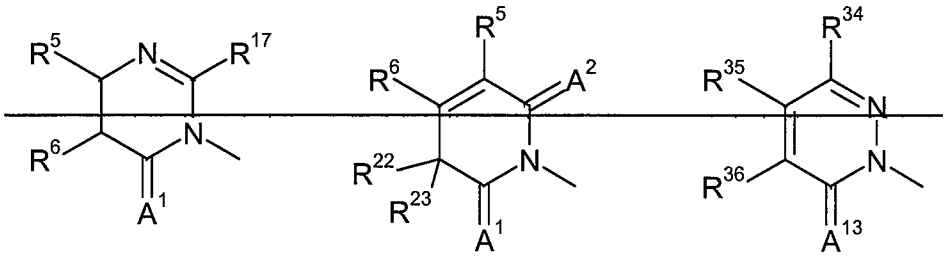
Q22



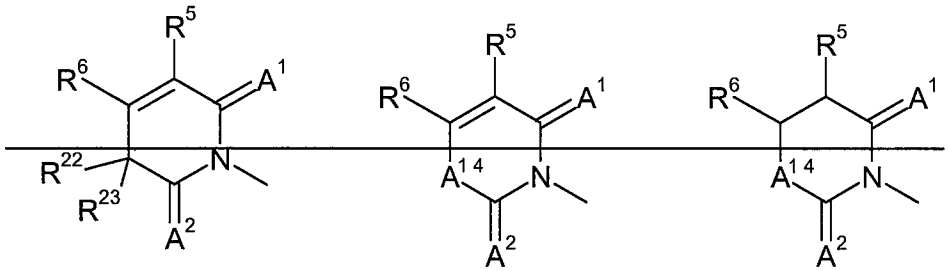
Q23



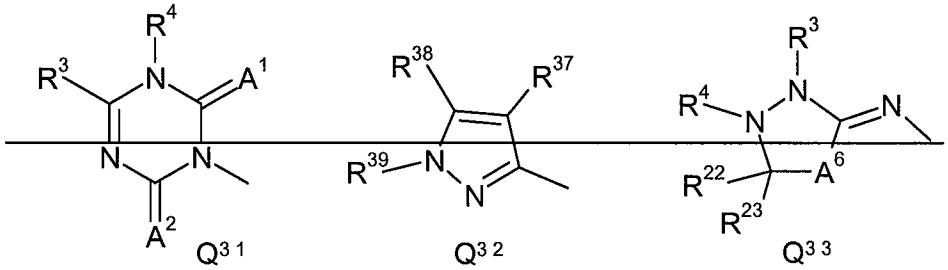
Q24



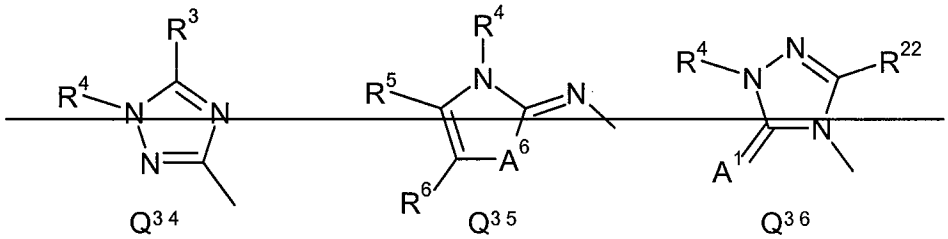
Q^{25} Q^{26} Q^{27}



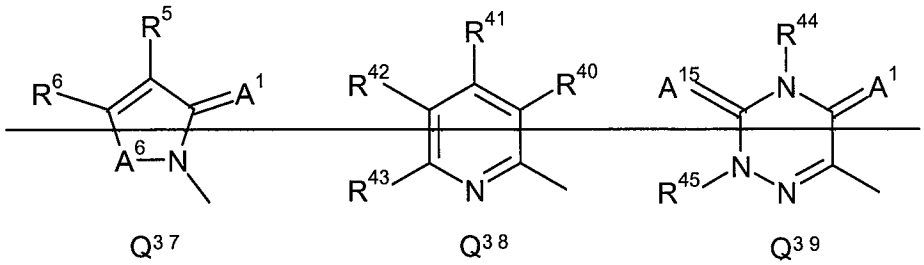
Q^{28} Q^{29} Q^{30}



Q^{31} Q^{32} Q^{33}



Q^{34} Q^{35} Q^{36}



Q^{37} Q^{38} Q^{39}

~~A^1 to A^{17}~~ A^8 and A^9 are oxygen ~~or sulfur~~;

~~R^3, R^4, R^7, R^8, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{18}, R^{19}, R^{27}, R^{29}, R^{32}, R^{33}, R^{38}, R^{39}, R^{44}, R^{45}, R^{46} and R^{47} are hydrogen, cyano, hydroxyl, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-cyanoalkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl, C_3-C_7-cycloalkyloxy, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_6-haloalkoxy, C_2-C_6-alkenyl, C_2-C_6-haloalkenyl, C_2-C_6-alkenyloxy, C_3-C_6-alkynyl, C_3-C_6-alkynyloxy, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl, phenyl-C_1-C_6-alkyl, amino, C_1-C_6-alkylamino or di(C_1-C_6-alkyl)amino; or~~

~~R^3 and R^4, R^{11} and R^{12}, R^{18} and R^{19}, or R^{46} and R^{47} together with the atoms to which they are attached form a three- to seven-membered heterocycle which for its part may be partially or fully halogenated and/or substituted by one to three radicals selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_6-alkyl and C_1-C_6-alkoxy;~~

~~R^5, R^6, R^9, R^{10}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{20}, R^{21}, R^{30}, R^{31}, R^{35}, R^{36}, R^{41}, R^{42} and R^{43} are hydrogen, hydroxyl, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl, C_3-C_7-cycloalkyloxy, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_6-haloalkoxy, C_2-C_6-alkenyl, C_2-C_6-haloalkenyl, C_2-C_6-alkenyloxy, C_3-C_6-alkynyl, C_3-C_6-alkynyloxy, C_1-C_6-alkylthio, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxysulfonyl, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyloxy, amino, C_1-C_6-alkylamino or di(C_1-C_6-alkyl)amino; or~~

~~R^5 and R^6, R^9 and R^{10}, R^{15} and R^{16}, R^{20} and R^{21}, or R^{30} and R^{31} together with the atoms to which they are attached form a three- to seven-membered heterocycle which for its part may be partially or fully halogenated and/or substituted by one to three radicals selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_6-alkyl and C_1-C_6-alkoxy;~~

~~R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{22}, R^{23}, R^{25} and R^{26} are hydrogen, halogen or C_1-C_6-alkyl;~~

~~R^{17}, R^{28}, R^{34}, R^{37} and R^{40} are hydrogen, halogen, hydroxyl, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl, C_3-C_7-cycloalkyloxy, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_6-haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6-alkylthio, C_1-C_6-haloalkylthio, C_2-C_6-alkenyl, C_2-C_6-haloalkenyl, C_2-C_6-alkenyloxy, C_3-C_6-alkynyl or C_3-C_6-alkynyloxy;~~

~~R^{24} is hydrogen, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, C_2-C_6-alkenyl, C_3-C_6-alkynyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkoxy, amino, C_1-C_6-alkylamino or di(C_1-C_6-alkyl)amino;~~

R^{29} is hydrogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl, or amino;

R^{30} is C_1-C_6 haloalkyl;

R^{31} is hydrogen;

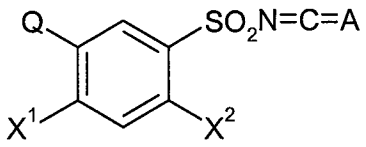
or an agriculturally useful salt thereof.

17. (Previously Presented) A compound of claim 16, in which X^1 is hydrogen, fluorine or chlorine.

18. (Canceled.)

19. (Canceled.)

20. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing a compound of claim 16, where X^3 is hydrogen, which comprises reacting a benzenesulfonyl iso(thio)cyanate of the formula II



II,

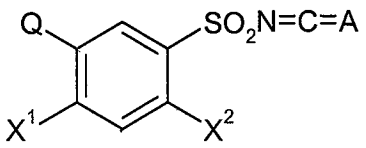
where X^1, X^2, A and Q are as defined in claim 16,

with an alcohol or thiol of the formula IV

HBR^1 III where B = NR^2
IV where B = O, S

where R^1 is as defined in claim 16.

21. (Withdrawn) A benzenesulfonyl iso(thio)cyanate of the formula II



II,

where X^1, X^2, A and Q are as defined in claim 16.

22. (Currently Amended) [[A]] An herbicidal composition comprising a herbicidally effective amount of at least one benzenesulfonamide derivative of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt of I according to claim 16 and further comprising auxiliaries customary for formulating crop protection agents.

23. (Currently Amended) [[A]] An herbicidal composition for the desiccation and/or defoliation of plants, comprising such an amount of at least one benzenesulfonamide derivative of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt of I according to claim 16 that acts as a desiccant and/or defoliant, and further comprising ~~auxiliaries customary for formulating crop protection agents~~ growth regulating compounds.

24. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing herbicidally effective compositions, which comprises mixing a herbicidally effective amount of at least one benzenesulfonamide derivative of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt of I according to claim 16 and auxiliaries customary for formulating crop protection agents.

25. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing compositions having desiccant and/or defoliant action, which comprises mixing a desiccant and/or defoliant effective amount of at least one compound according to claim 16 and auxiliaries customary for formulating crop protection agents.

26. (Withdrawn) A method for controlling unwanted vegetation, wherein a herbicidally effective amount of at least one benzenesulfonamide derivative of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt of I according to claim 16 is allowed to act on the unwanted vegetation, their habitat and/or on their seeds.

27. (Withdrawn) A method for the desiccation and/or defoliation of plants, which comprises allowing a desiccant and/or defoliant effective amount of at least one compound according to claim 16 to act on the plants.

28-39. (Canceled.)